

Oral Questions

attempting to do something within their own economic community to stimulate jobs. That has failed, and now we are in a situation where the public in these cities are contemplating soup kitchens and welfare benefits of some sort. Is the Prime Minister aware of the kind of despair which is prevalent in Canada and, if so, will he not consider the desperation which the people of Canada are feeling, and encourage in the planned economic statement, some stimulation to the Canadian economy so that our communities and our workers can get back to work?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I fear that the hon. member was preparing his supplementary question rather than listening to my answer. He may not agree with my answer, but I think I made it quite clear to him that the particular workers about whom he is talking depend upon stronger markets in other countries, not in Canada. They depend particularly upon the hopes and maybe expectations that the recession in the United States will be turned around and that we will see growth in the next two quarters. The hon. member asks the same question again—what do we intend to do in Canada about it? I can tell him that there is very little we can do to force the United States into policies which would create growth.

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PIPELINES

DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO MARITIME PROVINCES

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It concerns the extension of the natural gas pipeline to the Maritimes. The prime Minister will recall that in 1980 he promised a gas pipeline extension so that natural gas would be available in the maritimes by 1983 and that promise was repeated in the National Energy Program. Now we see delays in the construction of the natural gas pipeline so that natural gas will not be available until 1987 or later. How will the Prime Minister compensate the people in the maritimes, who will now be forced to pay much higher prices for fuel oil and energy until natural gas is available in Nova Scotia? How will he fulfil the promise which he made to the people of the maritimes in 1980?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, who is attending an international conference on gas exploration, has answered this question before. He has explained the reasons for the delay, and the circumstances under which the delay took place. He has expressed the view that the situation is now somewhat changed, that it is possible that gas will be found in commercial quantities off Sable Island, that the type of pipeline which we had contemplated before the delays were imposed upon us may have to be changed, and that gas may flow in the other direction. The hon. member has heard the answers, and I am satisfied that he knows them.

Mr. Crosby: Perhaps I did not make my point sufficiently clear to the Prime Minister. Part of the promise of natural gas supplies in the maritimes was that that natural gas would be available at the Toronto city gate price, which is approximately 65 per cent of the price of fuel oils and other energy sources. The fact of the matter is that the people in the maritime provinces will have to pay much more for energy supplies in this three or four-year period until natural gas is available; they will be spending more money. The Prime Minister and the government have taken responsibility for delivering energy at cheaper costs than will be experienced over this period.

FULFILLMENT OF ELECTION PROMISE

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, does the Prime Minister not feel some obligation to the individuals in the maritime provinces who now pay the highest energy costs in Canada to help them with this problem? Will he have them carry on over this three or four-year period and continue to pay the highest energy costs until he fulfils the promise which he made in the election campaign of 1980 and gained the support of a great many people in the maritimes by virtue of that promise?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, the hon. member asked if the government feels any obligation. The answer is that in a general sense of course it does, and that is why the government has adopted various measures, apart from the pipeline about which the hon. member is talking. It has adopted various forms of subsidies through the medium of prices, through the establishment of Candu reactors to produce electricity from atomic energy sources, or through the establishment of communications between the various maritime provinces. The government has felt such obligations to help the high cost area of the maritimes, including special subsidies for those who want to go off oil and on to other forms of energy such as wood.

Mr. Crosby: Another broken promise.

Mr. Trudeau: This is the reason the population of the maritimes supported our party. They saw that in fact in the past and in the future we are helping them with their energy costs.

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INDUSTRY

FOOTWEAR—INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE RE-EVALUATION OF GLOBAL QUOTA

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Three months ago, the Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada asked for a review of the global quota with respect to leather footwear. The minister was expected to reply, and he knows perfectly well, Madam Speaker, that